



Name: Erica Martino, LMSW, MPH, CHES

Title: Associate Director of Student Diversity and Community Outreach at the College of Health Professions

Bio: Erica Martino is a licensed master social worker and public health professional, with a passion for advancing equity, particularly educational equity. She has worked for the university for the past 5 ½ years. She recently joined the College of Health Professions as the Associate Director for Student Diversity and Community Outreach. In this role, she leads the college's student diversity initiatives, manages community outreach initiatives that support underrepresented minority students, and serves as the co-chair of the College of Health Professions Diversity & Inclusion Committee. Prior to joining the College of Health Professions, Erica worked as a Program Manager in the Hollings Cancer Center's Office of Community Outreach and Engagement. In this role, she coordinated various community outreach and minority student engagement initiatives. Erica has an extensive history of working with marginalized populations across the lifespan, but she has a particular interest in supporting underrepresented minority and first-generation college students through pipeline programs and student-centered community outreach and engagement.

Questions

What are you doing to elevate the culture of OneMUSC? At the College of Health Professions, we are employing strategic initiatives to increase student diversity, support unrepresented minority students, and promote an inclusive learning environment. I am honored to be a part of the efforts to promote equity and enhance the culture of belonging throughout the college.

Was there one thing that sparked your passion for diversity, equity, and inclusion? There is not one particular thing that sparked my passion but more so, the collective impact of everything around me, my own personal experiences, and the experiences of those that I love.

If you could give one piece of advice to people who are just learning about diversity, equity, and inclusion work, what would it be? To listen, not just with your ears but also your heart. When we listen with empathy and the true intent to learn from others, we are challenged to ask questions that lead to meaningful conversations and opportunities for impactful change.